**Extortion by Naxalites**

†485.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the naxal violence affected States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Maharashtra have a reign of "Red Empire" from where the naxalites extort around Rs. 1500 crores;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Home Minister of Maharashtra has also confirmed an increase in the spate of naxal violence;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these naxal activities have international nexus; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Available inputs indicate extortion from contractors, businessmen, industrialists, transporters, etc., in naxal affected States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Maharashtra. Exact quantum of extortion is not known.

(c) There has been an increase in naxal violence in Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) Available inputs indicate that the Left Wing Extremist groups, particularly, the CPI (Maoist) maintain fraternal links with communist parties of several countries. Government is maintaining a close watch on the situation and takes appropriate action as are necessary.

**Criteria for funding erosion under CRF and NCCF**

486. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that erosion caused by diversion of rivers and river channels which has uprooted lakhs of families throughout the country and the huge loss of fertile cultivable and habitable land are not considered as calamity or disaster entitled for funding under CRF and NCCF; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how this calamity has been categorized for adequate relief, rehabilitation and reclamation of land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The issue of inclusion of specific calamities in the list of identified natural calamities for the purpose of incurring expenditure from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) comes under the purview of the successive Finance Commissions. The 12th Finance Commission, the Award of which is in operation during the years 2005-10, had also *inter-alia* considered the proposal for inclusion of soil erosion and changes in course of rivers, however not recommended as one of the calamities qualifying for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

The concerned State Governments are required to provide assistance for relief, rehabilitation and reclamation of land from their Plan/own resources, to the population affected due to erosion.

**Talks with naxalites**

†487.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks with naxalites has been initiated in any State;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, whether Central Government is contemplating to hold talks with them; and

(d) the names of the States which have made a request to that effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) States Governments have, from time to time, appealed to the Left Wing Extremists to abjure violence and hold talks with the Government on any issues that are of concern to them. Central Government does not have any Information whether any State Government is now engaged in any talks with the Left Wing Extremists. As far as the Central Government is concerned, it will welcome such talks between State Governments and Left Wing Extremists provided Left Wing Extremists abjure violence and give up their so-called "armed struggle". There is no proposal for the Central Government to hold talks directly with the Left Wing Extremists.

**Schemes for Jail Reforms**

488. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been implementing schemes for Jail Reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating recommendations, if any, based on which the same are implemented and the period of its commencement with particular references to issues like providing adequate medical care to ailing detainees, segregation of hardened criminals in custody from undertrial detainees etc.;

(c) whether Government has reviewed the situation in jails across the country especially in terms of their respective capacity to accommodate detainees *vis-a-vis* detainees being actually held therein; and

(d) if so, State and UT-wise details thereof as on March 31, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Govt. of India had constituted following committees for various jail reforms in the country:

(i) All India Jail Reforms Committee in 1980 headed by Justice A.N. Mulla (Retired) which gave its report in 1983.

(ii) Kapoor Committee (1986) to examine and review various aspects of administration and management of prisons, especially in the context of security and discipline in prisons and suggest measures for their improvement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi